



PATENT  
[717119.336]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: John E. Johnson	:	Examiner: David J. Parsley
	:	
Serial No.: 10/604,306	:	Group Art Unit: 3643
	:	
Filed: July 9, 2003	:	Attorney Docket No.: 717119.336
	:	
For: NEURAL CONDUIT SPINAL CORD REMOVER	:	Customer No.: 027128
	:	
	:	Confirmation No.: 1305
Last Office Action: September 21, 2004	:	

**AMENDMENT A**  
Under 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004, please amend the above-identified application in accordance with the amendments and remarks as set forth herein.

**INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3 – 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by DE 19757745. Claims 9 – 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,126,535. Claims 14 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by DE Patent No. 19824966. Claims 2, 7, 8, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The applicant hereby submits the following amendments and/or remarks, which are fully responsive to the Office Action. The applicant respectfully asserts that the claims are in condition for allowance. Further, the Abstract and the Drawing are amended herein responsive to the Examiner's rejections. Please enter the amendments as indicated herein.